

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 6-8, 13-14, 18, 20, and 25 have been amended. Claims 9 and 15 have been canceled. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 18-20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 5,491,362 to Hamzehdoost et al. (“Hamzehdoost”); claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,585,672 to Koike et al. (“Koike”) in view of Hamzehdoost; claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,912,804 to Lawson et al. (“Lawson”) in view of Hamzehdoost; claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,075 to Combs et al. (“Combs”) in view of Hamzehdoost; claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,842,662 to Jacobi (“Jacobi”) in view of Hamzehdoost; claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,912,804 to Lawson et al. (“Lawson”) in view of Hamzehdoost; and claims 17 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,777,818 B2 to Baldwin (“Baldwin”) in view of Hamzehdoost.

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

As indicated above, claims 1-8 and 10-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. 103(a). However, the Examiner also stated that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 9 (prior to the present amendment). Further, limitations of claim 9 (prior to the present amendment) have been incorporated into each independent claim of the present application. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claims 6, 7, 8, and 13 were amended to be consistent with amended claim 1 and claims 6, 14, and 20 were amended to correct typographical errors.

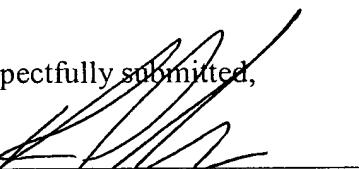
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 408-544-7674.

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Respectfully submitted,

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